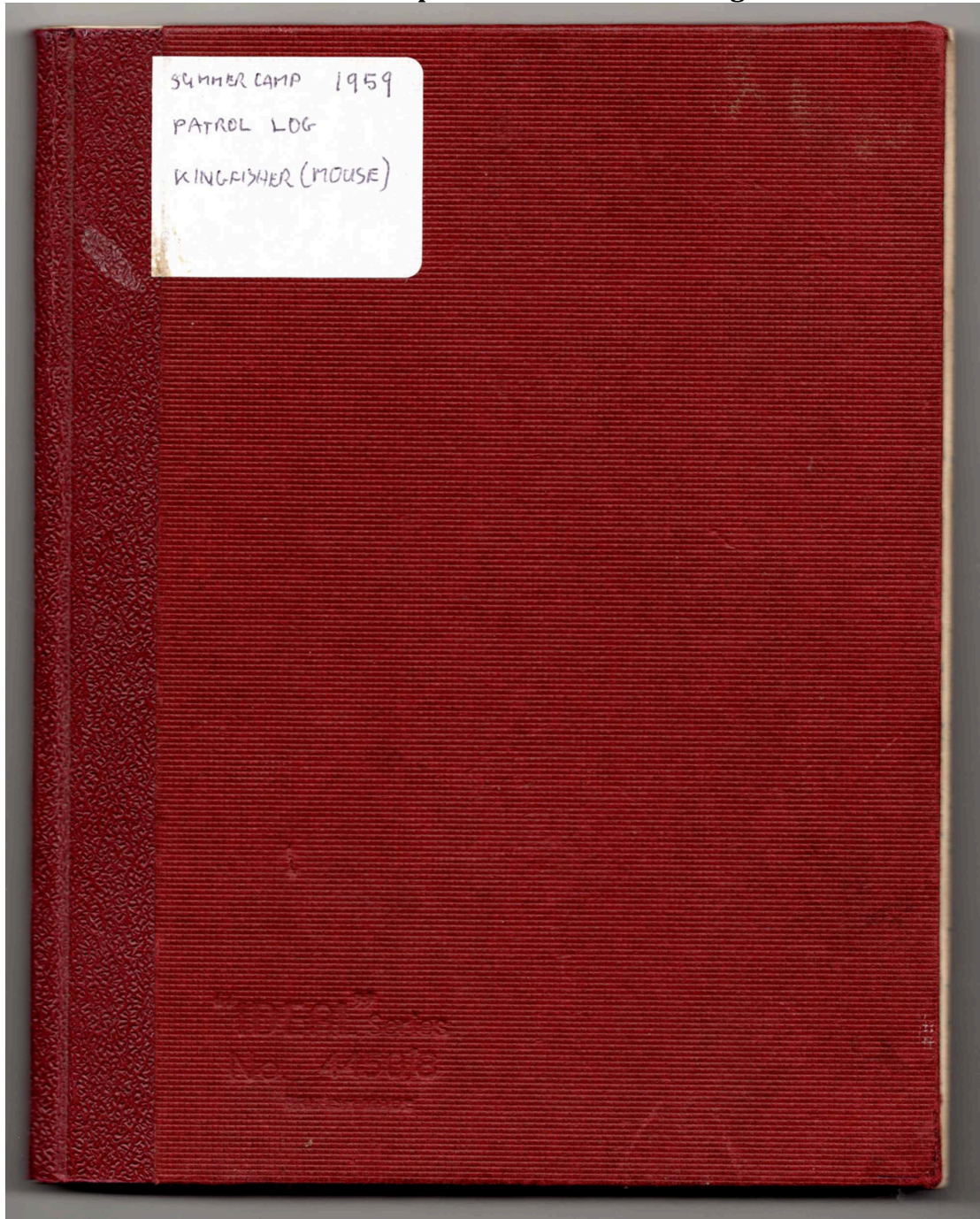


## Summer Camp 1959 Mouse Patrol Log



**Editorial Note:**

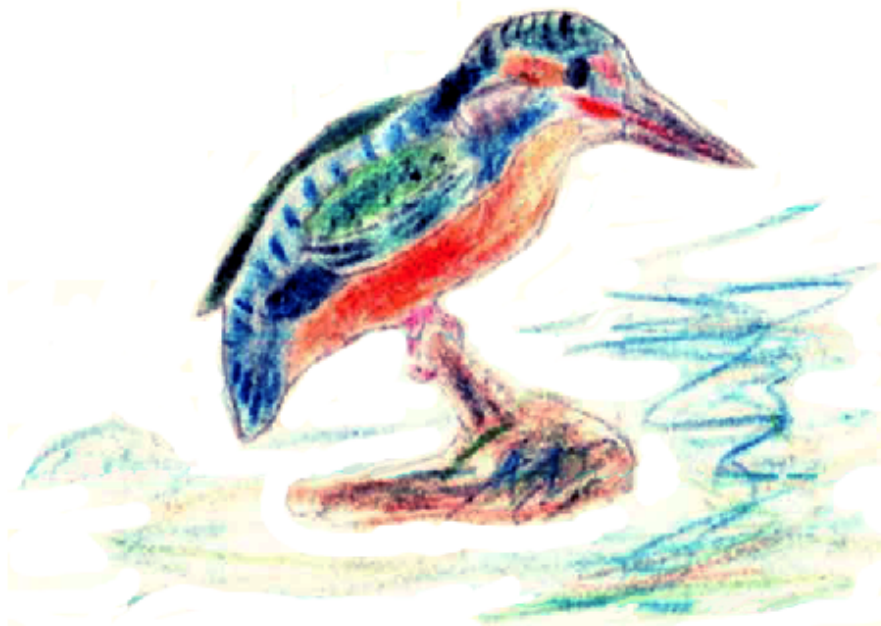
*Note that the Mouse Patrol was led by Trevor Jones of the Kingfisher Patrol. During the camp, the Patrol was called the Mouse Patrol. It was customary to change the names of patrols at summer camp, partially because most of these patrols were composite patrols containing Scouts who were in different patrols during the rest of the year.*

# Boy Scout Troop



# KINGFISHER

# PATROL

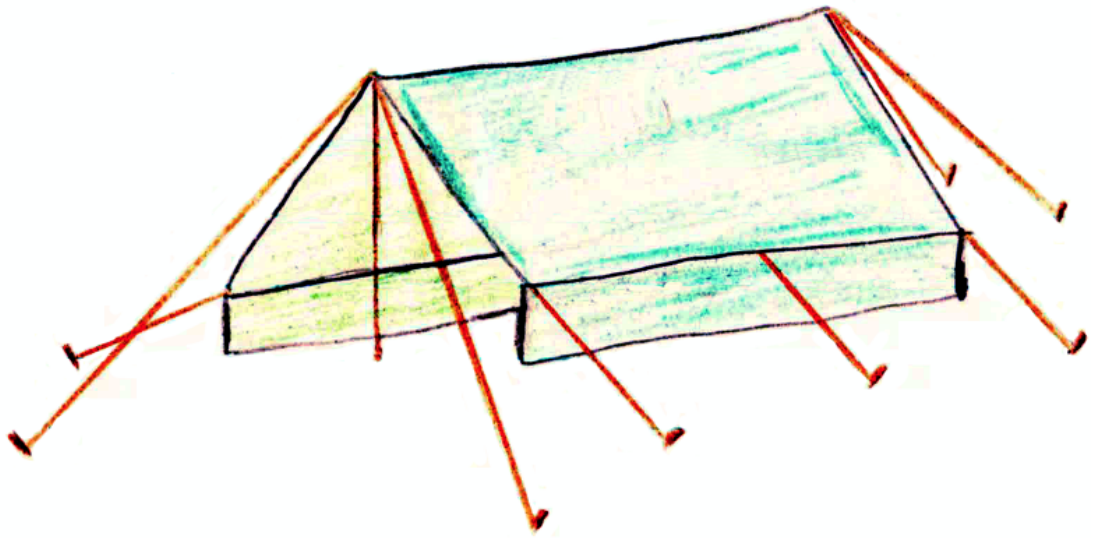


**Editorial Note:**

*The patrol was led by Trevor Jones of the Kingfisher Patrol. However, although the logbook was entitled the Kingfisher Patrol, it was actually known as the Mouse Patrol in camp. It was customary to change the names of patrols at summer camp, partially because most of these patrols were composite patrols containing Scouts who were in different patrols during the rest of the year.*

CAMP

LOG BOOK



SUMMER CAMP

1959

WED 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY - FRI 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY

WOOD HOUSE  
WEST LOCH TARBERT

ARGYLL

GRID REFERENCE: NR 835648

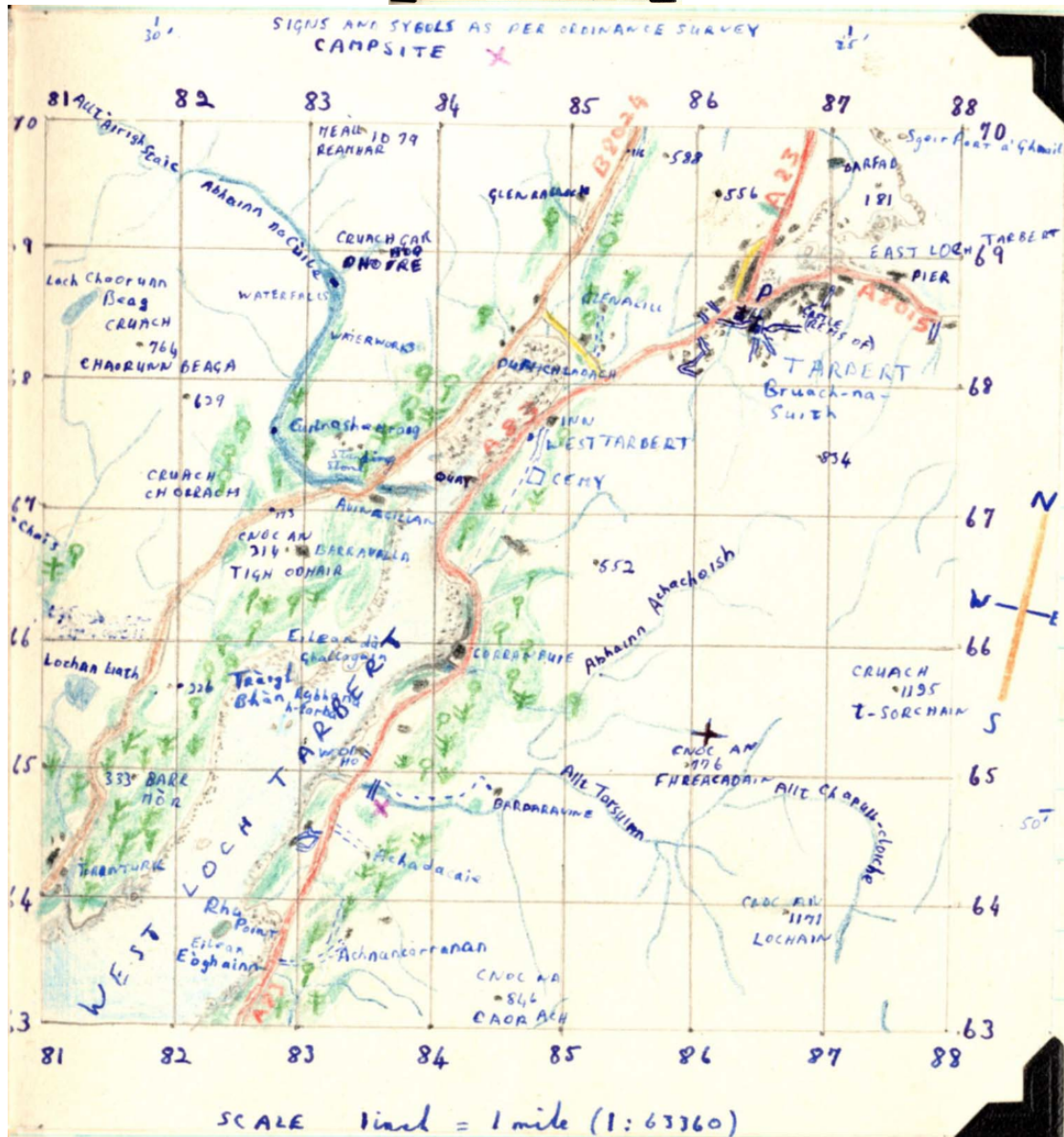
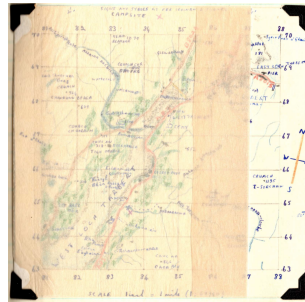
O.S. SHEET 58 4<sup>TH</sup> SERIES

KNAPDALE

*Editorial Note:*

*This is the first evidence of the Troop using a map from the 7<sup>th</sup> series of 1" to the mile maps issued by the Ordnance Survey during the 1950s. There is evidence that the map used in the previous summer camp to Benderloch was a 6<sup>th</sup> series map. The Grid reference is NR 835648.*

## TARBERT and WEST LOCH TARBERT DISTRICT



### Editorial Note:

It is presumed that Trevor Jones made this meticulously hand drawn copy of the West Loch Tarbert area from the 1" to the mile map. The campsite was marked with a red cross at grid reference 835648. The drawing of the map was pasted into the log book and protected by a layer of tracing paper as shown at the top of the page.

The members of the patrol are as follows:<sup>1</sup>-

Trevor Jones<sup>2</sup> P.L.  
Jim Blair<sup>3</sup> Second  
Tommy Dow<sup>4</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Scout  
Ian Lee<sup>5</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Scout

The patrol at camp is to be known as the MOUSE patrol.

If the patrol camps in two tents, then the patrol becomes the FIELDMOUSE and HOUSEMOUSE Patrols for the purposes of an inspection. Marks deducted from each patrol are totaled and subtracted from the possible to give the actual which is entered in the name of the MOUSE patrol,

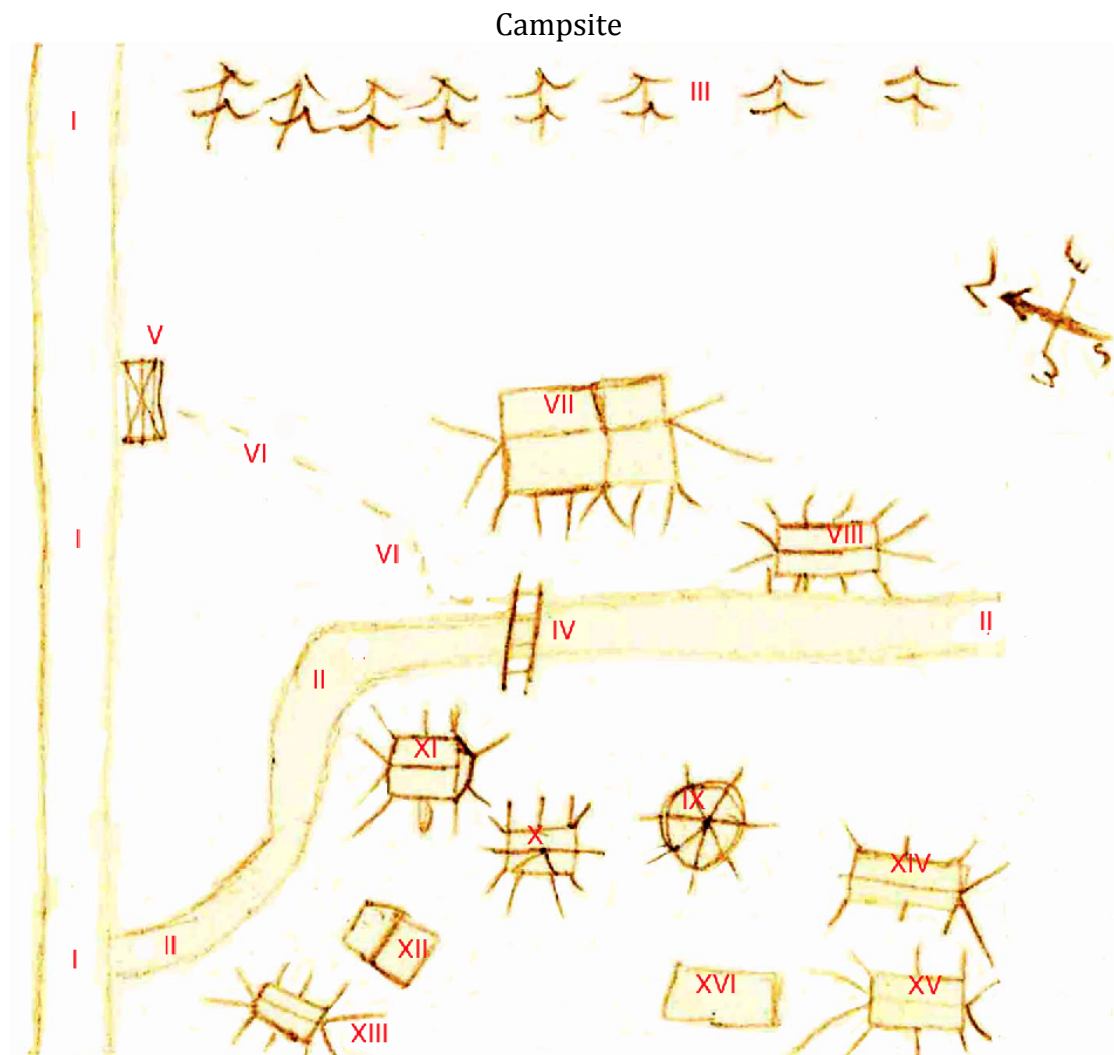
The patrol is camping in the Niger.

Jim Blair is to be P.L. (Camp Variety<sup>6</sup>) of a different patrol<sup>7</sup>. The patrol will not therefore be complete, but will be as follows<sup>1</sup>:-

Trevor Jones<sup>2</sup> P.L.  
Alistair Cramm<sup>8</sup> (Fox formerly Kingfisher Patrol)  
Tommy Dow<sup>4</sup>  
Ian Lee<sup>5</sup>  
Alan Conway<sup>9, 10</sup>

### **Editorial Notes**

- 1. The manner in which this page is written (allied to the carefully drawn sketches, the copy of the OS map and the initial uncertainty of what tent would be used) suggests that Trevor wrote the introductory pages of the Patrol Log before Summer Camp started. Clearly, it was originally intended that the Kingfisher would camp as a 4-man patrol. However, a substantial reorganization of the patrols occurred, which included Jim Blair becoming Acting Patrol Leader of the 'Rattlesnake Patrol'. Therefore, the reorganization of the Patrol most likely occurred prior to departure. The Mouse patrol ended up with three Kingfishers and three Scouts from other patrols.*
- 2. Trevor Jones was P.L. of the Kingfisher Patrol from October 1956 to May 1960, and was probably aged 16 at this point. He was particularly interested in adventurous outdoor activities.*
- 3. Jim Blair was aged 15 at this point and had been Second of the Kingfisher Patrol since 1956. He was promoted to PL of the Fox patrol after the summer.*
- 4. Tommy Dow was aged about 15 at the time and was promoted to Second of the Seal Patrol after the summer. It is thought that he might have transferred to the 70<sup>th</sup> from another troop in 1957 or 1958.*
- 5. Ian Lee was aged about 12 at the time and was in the troop for about 2 years*
- 6. In other words, he was Patrol Leader in camp, but was yet to be formally promoted to PL.*
- 7. The Rattlesnake Patrol*
- 8. Alastair Cram was aged about 14 at this time. He had been in the Kingfisher Patrol until he was promoted to Second of the Fox Patrol in June 1959. He was Second of the Mouse Patrol in camp.*
- 9. Alan Conway was aged about 12 at this time and was normally in the Fox Patrol*
- 10. It seems as if another Scout was added to the Patrol at a later point. The Rattlesnake Patrol log book has a campsite plan that identifies a 'David' being part of the Mouse Patrol. Unfortunately, his surname was not identified. David Friedman (15) and David McQuat (15) are two possibilities, but there may well have been another Scout called David who has not been mentioned in the available records..*



**Editorial Notes** (Roman numerals added by Editor)

- I The main A83 road going north to Tarbert
- II The stream (Allt Tarsuinn)
- III Trees
- IV Footbridge
- V Dilapidated gate
- VI Cart track
- VII Mouse Patrol Kitchen Shelter and 'Eating House'
- VIII Mouse Patrol tent (Niger)
- IX The Scouters' Bell tent
- X Palamine hike tent used by the 'Midge' Patrol (Martin and Ronald Blake)
- XI Bungalow hike tent used by Hamish Rankin and Michael Hodge
- XII Hamish Rankin's kitchen shelter
- XIII Kara tent occupied by Billy Phillips, Laird Macfarlane and a so-far unidentified 'John'.
- XIV Kara tent occupied by Phillip Dry, Ronald Russell and Jim Blair
- XV Kara tent occupied by Alastair Robb and Sandy Miller
- XVI Rattlesnake Patrol's kitchen shelter



**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 1959**

### **First Day**

We met on Gourock Pier at 09.00 hrs and the gear<sup>11</sup> was loaded aboard the D.E.V.<sup>12</sup> "Loch Fyne"<sup>13</sup>. The boat left Gourock at 9.30 hrs. Tickets for the bicycles<sup>14</sup> cost 6/3d<sup>15</sup> each for a single journey.

We arrived at Tarbert<sup>16</sup> at 12.30 hrs and disembarked ourselves and unloaded the gear. Those with bicycles then left for Tarbert<sup>17</sup> where they assembled at 12.40 hours and proceeded to the site<sup>18</sup>. About an hour later the lorry<sup>19</sup> carrying the gear and the 'bods'<sup>20</sup> arrived. The gear was unloaded and carried across the burn<sup>21</sup>. Camp was made. Tents were put up, then kitchen shelters and fires<sup>22</sup>. Gadgets were then started<sup>23</sup> and tea<sup>24</sup> was commenced at 17.00 hrs.

We ate:-        Bangers and spaghetti  
                  Bread jam etc  
                  Tea

After tea, the dishes were washed and all necessary chores undertaken such as building *the* flagpole<sup>25</sup>. A game of baseball<sup>26</sup> was then played. The score being four home runs to one.

After a campfire and cocoa, we retired to bed fairly early and lights out was at the usual hour of 23.00.

Trevor J. Jones P.L.

### **Editorial Notes**

**11.** *The troop camping equipment might have been taken down to Gourock pier the previous day and stored in the Left Luggage Office. This was certainly done on a number of other camps.*

**12.** *It is not known what D.E.V. stands for*

**13.** *The MV LochFyne was a passenger ferry capable of carrying 1202 passengers, and was built by William Denny and Brothers of Dumbarton in 1931 for David MacBrayne Ltd. During the 1960s, it sailed from Gourock to Ardrishaig and back again stopping at Tarbert en route. The ship was also designated as a 'mail steamer' as it carried the Royal Mail to Ardrishaig. The ferry was withdrawn from service in 1969 and scrapped in 1974. The ferry had two funnels but the front funnel was a dummy.*

**14.** *This might have been the first summer camp that some of the Scouts took bicycles with them. They came in useful for travelling into Tarbert from the campsite and back. A shelter for the bikes was taken and served as a 'garage' in camp.*

**15.** *In the old currency, 6/3d represented 6 shillings and three pennies (six and threepence). There were 20 shillings to the pound and 12 pennies to the shilling. In 1959, 6/3d would be the equivalent of just under £10.0 today (Feb. 2023).*

**16.** *Tarbert pier*

**17.** *It is about a mile from Tarbert pier to the centre of Tarbert*

**18.** *It has been proposed that the PLs were on bikes, but there has been no confirmation of that. However, the fact that the author (Trevor Jones) describes those arriving by lorry as the 'bods' might be taken as some evidence. Bob Miller was in charge of the cyclists and knew where the campsite was –indicating that he must have been part of a recce party to visit the site at an earlier date.*

**19.** *In the 1950s, the majority of Clyde ferries were passenger ferries and so piermasters usually provided a lorry to transport goods and equipment brought by an arriving ferry to their destinations. Passengers could also make use of this service to transport heavy luggage, presumably if they paid in advance and identified the desired destination. It is assumed that the troop hired such a lorry to transport the Scouts and the camping equipment to the campsite on West Loch Tarbert. However, it is likely that they would have had to wait until the lorry had made its routine deliveries from the arriving ferry and then returned to the pier. This could well explain why there was such a delay in the lorry arriving at the campsite. In the 1950s, there was nothing unusual in Scouts being*

transported in the back of a lorry. It should also be noted that coal merchants hired out their lorries during the summer when the demand for coal was low. For example, the 70<sup>th</sup> hired a coal lorry to transport Scouts and equipment to and from Pitlochry railway station during the 1950s and 1960s.

20. The rest of the Scouts.

21. The Allt Tarsuinn. Presumably the footbridge marked on the sketch map and the OS map was used to carry the equipment across. As Trevor had been on site for an hour before the gear arrived, he had already decided where his patrol would camp. Therefore, it seems unlikely that the Mouse Patrol would have carried its own equipment across as they were camping on the other side of the burn from the rest of the camp.

22. Each Patrol was self sufficient throughout the summer camp in terms of camping and cooking arrangements. All meals were cooked over wood fires. It's not known what kind of fires were used (alter fires, pit fires, trench fires etc). However, pit fires seemed to be used at the previous year's summer camp at Benderloch.

23. Each patrol 'furnished' its site with various gadgets made from natural materials. According to Martin Blake, his father was insistent that gadgets were built using wood and sisal/twine/string etc. Examples of gadgets included plate racks, mug trees, table and seating arrangements, basin rack etc. etc.

24. Dinner was the midday meal, tea was the late afternoon meal. The former was the main meal of the day.

25. It was traditional to put up a sizeable flagpole at summer camp. The flagpole was usually obtained locally by cutting down a suitable tree or obtaining a tree that had been cut down and trimmed by the Forestry Commission. It's not known what the source of the tree was for this camp. According to Martin Blake, the flagpole at Tarbert 1959 was a Skylon flagpole which is suspended off the ground.

26. It's not known who first introduced baseball to the 70<sup>th</sup> but it was certainly a popular game during the 1950s and 1960s.

**Thursday, 23rd July 1959**

**2nd Day**

09.30 hours. I<sup>27</sup> got the patrol up and a fire was lit for breakfast.

We had            Slice and eggs  
                     Bread, jam etc  
                     Cornflakes with sugar and milk

After the meal, dishes were washed, then the boys were washed and a start made on clearing up for inspection<sup>28</sup>. Flag break and inspection were at 10.00 hrs. Then at 10.45 hrs, stores were issued for lunch. A game<sup>29</sup> followed. Then lunch.

Soup  
Potatoes, Mince  
Jelly and Rhubarb<sup>30</sup>

After a siesta, a bathing party was organized and a raft was built<sup>31</sup>. Tom's dad<sup>32</sup> came about 16.00 hrs while we were lighting a fire for Tea. Tea was

Corned beef, beans<sup>30</sup>  
Bread, Jam etc

Washing up finished, a short rest followed (for the wee men) then getting wood. The patrol built a wood pile and I<sup>27</sup> fetched timber for a table. I erected the table and then took Alan Conway and Ian Lee with me up the wood and we cut timber for benches<sup>23</sup>. The benches made, we lowered the table to fit. Alan and I then put up a shelter over the table and I got flung in the burn<sup>33</sup> for not going for my cocoa when it was cooked. We then all retired to bed and I wrote this logbook (after the boss<sup>34</sup> had gone to bed)

Trevor J. Jones P.L.  
John R. Blake S.M. 70<sup>th</sup> <sup>35</sup>

**Editorial Notes**

<sup>27</sup>. P.L. Trevor Jones

<sup>28</sup>. Inspection was usually carried out by the Scouters every morning to ensure that the patrol sites were tidy and hygienic. Patrol tents were usually checked to ensure that they were pitched correctly and the Scouts had to lay out their personal equipment on the groundsheet in a uniform, tidy fashion. The kitchen shelter would have been checked to ensure that all dishes and dixies were clean and stored tidily. Any litter or untidiness would have lost marks. The Scouts were usually lined up in their patrol standing at attention and probably in uniform, and it was not unusual for hands to be inspected to check that everyone had washed.

<sup>29</sup>. Baseball was played again.

<sup>30</sup>. There was quite an emphasis in the menu on beans, prunes and rhubarb, presumably to encourage regular habits.

<sup>31</sup>. This appears to be the first recorded mention of a raft being built at camp. It would be interesting to know who the pioneering expert(s) were and whether raft building was a normal activity at previous camps. Certainly, the focus on pioneering projects continued into the 1960s when Bob Miller took over as S.M, suggesting that he might have been the Troop's 'lead pioneer'. The raft building and bathing took place on the shoreline of West Loch Tarbert. The exact location was not identified though. The shore line at Woodhouse (or Wood Ho) would be closest to the campsite.

32. *Tommy Dow's father was the Rev. James L. Dow of Cartsburn Augustine Church. Its not known why he visited the camp. One possibility is that he brought Tommy to camp that day following a family holiday. However, the Rattlesnake log makes it clear that it was a visit and that Tommy was already in camp.*

33. *Sounds rather drastic, but perhaps it was the accepted punishment for the crime. Presumably, Scouters were responsible for carrying out the 'punishment'.*

34. *Scout Master J.R. Blake*

35. *John Blake added his signature to show that he had read the log book entries for the first two days.*

## Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 3<sup>rd</sup> Day

We got up at 07.45 hrs.

Ian Lee lit the fire and cooked the breakfast so that he could pass his firefighting and cooking<sup>36</sup>.

He cooked:-  
Porridge  
Ham, Eggs

The verdict was not bad for the first time, but needs loads more practice.

After "faire les vaisselles", nous<sup>37</sup> got ready for inspection where we lost 2 pts for woodchips<sup>38</sup> in the tent and two pts for something in the kitchen.

We gained 10 points for building a table and seats<sup>23</sup> and for erecting a shelter over these.

The Boss<sup>34</sup> announced free time in the afternoon. The bus to Tarbert is at 12.15 hrs<sup>39</sup>.

A game<sup>40</sup> was held after inspection.

The bank<sup>41</sup> was open from 11.30 hrs to 12.00 hrs for pocket money withdrawals.

Dinner was made so as to allow 'wee men'<sup>42</sup> to get the bus at 12.15 hrs. It was

Spuds, Tinned Steak  
Carrots  
Prunes<sup>30</sup> and Custard

We washed up and I did some work in the Garage<sup>43</sup>.

Then the Boss<sup>34</sup>, Bob<sup>44</sup>, Ken Jon<sup>45</sup> and I<sup>27</sup> relaxed until approx. 14.00 hrs when we departed for Tarbert<sup>46</sup> looking all nice and clean for a change. Will Phil<sup>47</sup> was the only person then left in camp<sup>48,49</sup>

I arrived back at approx. 17.00 hrs. Bob came about 5 minutes later and wee Jim<sup>3</sup>, Tom<sup>4</sup>, David<sup>50</sup>, Bob, Philip Dry<sup>51</sup> and Will Fil<sup>52</sup> and I and the rest made tea in our kitchen. Below is a fabricated me-an'-U<sup>53</sup> (per man).

One half crumb of stale bread  
1/1000 dram of Jam  
1 gallon water (water's cheap)

Bob then told me to see that the kitchen was cleaned up and when the boys had finished, I blew three whistles<sup>54</sup> and announced that we would go bathing<sup>31</sup> in five minutes time; which we did.

Bobby<sup>55</sup> tipped us all off the raft. The raft needs new lashings<sup>56</sup> on it. We went back to camp and soon after the Boss returned from Tarbert and fell through the bridge.<sup>57</sup> I wrote my notes.

A game of rugby was organized<sup>58</sup>. Then Bob made soup. Later we had cocoa.

Willie Jamison<sup>59</sup> paid us a visit during campfire.

Bed for wee men and lights out at 23.00 hrs.

Sandy Whiteford<sup>60</sup> and Douglas Brown<sup>61</sup> arrived on motor bikes<sup>62</sup>.

Trevor J. Jones P.L.

### **Editorial Notes**

36. This was one of the tests required for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Badge – the second badge in the Progressive Training scheme for Scouts.
37. 'doing the dishes, we....'
38. Woodchips were always a bit of a headache as they took ages to clear up. They were small slivers of wood that always resulted from chopping wood. They were formed in greatest quantity when using an axe to make wooden stakes. The problem could be alleviated by placing the chopping block on an old ground sheet or some other surface in order to catch the wood chippings. However, it is not known whether this was done at Tarbert. The fact that woodchips were in the tent does not necessarily mean that the groundsheet had been used for that purpose.
39. This was the local service bus. It was also mentioned in the Rattlesnake Patrol Log that some of the Scouts were driven in by car. This is the only mention of a car being at the camp and it is not known whose car it was.
40. The game was ringstick. One member of each team stood at opposite ends of the playing area holding a stick. The aim was for his team mates to throw a rubber ring such that the Scout holding the stick could 'catch' it on the stick. It is not clear whether this was played as a non-contact game like basketball, or whether the rules were 'anything goes'. The ring could not be placed over the stick and had to be thrown. This involved quite a bit of skill from the Scout holding the stick in order to judge the flight of the ring correctly.
41. The bank consisted of a Scouter who kept hold of the Scouts' spending money to keep it safe during camp. The Scouts could then withdraw money when they needed it, although the Scouter in charge of the bank might put a limit on what was withdrawn to ensure that they did not run out of spending money before the end of camp.
42. The term 'wee men' was rather vague and unofficial, but it probably encompassed all Scouts under a certain age – possibly 13 or 14.
43. The 'garage was for the bikes'. Presumably, this was a spare kitchen shelter. The garage was on the same side of the burn as the Mouse Patrol's camping site, fairly close to the footbridge.
44. ASM Bob Miller
45. PL Kenneth Johnson
46. It is assumed that only the younger Scouts went into Tarbert at 12.15, which implies that there were more present in camp than the four identified by Trevor. It is known that at least 4 Scouts (including Jim Blair and Tommy Dow) plus Ian Blake and his son Martin cycled into town (see Rattlesnake Patrol Log). Others, such as Trevor, may also have cycled, and there is the possibility that a car was available (see note 39)
47. Billy Phillips
48. Billy Phillips was aged about 12 at the time, so it seems odd that he was the only person left in camp, unless the scribe meant that he was the only Scout left in camp. If a car was available, there is a possibility that it was used to transport a full 'load' into Tarbert, then returned to camp to collect Billy.
49. During the visit to Tarbert, several Scouts hired 'motor boats' in the afternoon and some visited the Regal cinema in the evening. The Café Ca'dora also did a roaring trade in terms of chips and ice cream (see Rattlesnake Patrol Log).
50. It is not known what David's surname was (see note 10).
51. Philip Dry was probably aged about 14 or 15 at the time and was a member of the Rattlesnake Patrol in camp. His normal patrol was the Seal Patrol and he was promoted to Second of that patrol after the summer.
52. Billy Phillips was called Will Phil almost as soon as he joined the troop. The spelling varied between Will Phil and Will Fil, but then evolved in later years to Wiffil, then Wif.
53. Menu
54. The signal of 3 whistles was used to summon the patrols to a central meeting place, and may have been used as such from the very start of the troop in the 1930s.
55. Bob Miller. This is probably the only time that he was identified as 'Bobby' in the troop records. He was usually called 'Bob or 'Eccles' The origin of the latter nickname is unknown.
56. Lashings refer to the method of tying wooden spars together with rope or sizal. The standard lashings that might have been used for the raft were the square lashing and the diagonal lashing.
57. One of the foot spars near the end of the bridge had previously broken – presumably by accident. It would appear from the Rattlesnake Patrol log that the Scouts were waiting and watching to see whether JRB would come a cropper or not.
58. In fact, the game was speedily changed to football as the rugby proved 'rather too rough'.

59. *It is not known who Willie Jamison was. One possibility is that he was the farmer whose land the 70<sup>th</sup> was camping on.*
60. *Sandy Whiteford was a former Patrol Leader and Troop Leader of the 70<sup>th</sup>. He was an ASM from 1957 to 1959. He would have been aged about 20 in 1959*
61. *Douglas Brown was Senior Sixer in the 70<sup>th</sup> Wolf Cub Pack when the Group restarted in 1947. He then went on to become Patrol Leader and Troop Leader in the Troop before becoming an ASM in 1954. He transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Renfrewshire at the end of 1955 but maintained close links with the 70<sup>th</sup> during the rest of the 1950s.*
62. *Sandy and Douglas did not have holidays available to attend the full camp and so they could only come for the weekend. The 'motor bikes' were more like scooters, but they served their purpose well.*

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July

4<sup>th</sup> Day

We rose this morning at the unofficial hour of 08.00. I<sup>27</sup> hung my sleeping bag out to drip dry off the sweat. The fire was lit and breakfast cooked. It was

Raw Cornflakes

Cooked Black Pud & Eggs

Raw Bread, Marge, Marmalade<sup>63</sup>

We then washed up and tidied the tent and kitchen for inspection. We lost 3 points for the tent and 2 for the kitchen giving us 7 and 8 respectively. After the inspection, I told Alan Conway<sup>9</sup> to pack his kit as he is leaving today for home.<sup>64</sup> The fire was built up for lunch and the steak killed with the big hammer.<sup>65</sup>

A Game<sup>66</sup> was then held. Then a Grand Beetle drive<sup>67</sup> which we won and the prize for which was a bottle of Raspberryade which went down very well. Alan and I<sup>68</sup> had something to eat and left for Tarbert<sup>69</sup> at 12.30 hrs.



Lunch that day was Steak, Spuds and Jelly.

When I arrived back at 14.45 hrs<sup>70</sup>, everyone was away for a swim<sup>31</sup>. Mrs Blake<sup>71</sup> came up looking for JR<sup>34</sup> and I told her they were down at the beach. When the boys arrived back, tea was made. We ate

Macaroni and Cheese

Spaghetti

Bread Butter Jam

Lemonade

After washing up, the boys played for a time and, at 19.00 hrs, we all went for a walk.<sup>72</sup> After the walk, cocoa and dumpling<sup>73</sup> were partaken of by all except Sherpa Twev<sup>74</sup> who was building a new fireplace<sup>75</sup>. Lights out was at 23.00 hrs.

Trevor J. Jones P.L.

Douglas Brown<sup>61</sup>

(ASM, 1<sup>st</sup> Renfrewshire) (7)<sup>76</sup>

#### Editorial Notes

<sup>63</sup>. The underline may imply that this was an unusual treat

<sup>64</sup>. It is not known why Alan was returning home and whether this had been planned from the outset.

<sup>65</sup>. The steak had to be tenderized to break up the fibres prior to cooking.



66. *This was another game of baseball.*
67. *There is an indoor party game called Beetle Drive which involves drawing a beetle depending on the throw of a dice, but this is more likely to have been a race between real beetles.*
68. *As Trevor was Alan's PL, he had a responsibility to ensure that Alan caught the ferry back home safely.*
69. *It's not known whether they caught the bus, hiked or cycled. As stated earlier, the service bus was at 12.15 pm. Therefore, the most likely method of getting into Tarbert was on foot as Alan would have had his rucksack to carry.*
70. *The time is in keeping with Trevor walking both ways on foot. The distance to Tarbert pier from the campsite was about 4 miles.*
71. *Possibly Mrs. Blake was staying with Martin Blake's grandparents in Tarbert*
72. *This was up to the top of a hill. It was not identified but one possibility is Cnoc a' Bhaile-shios (1383'), which was south east of the campsite.*
73. *This was something of a camp tradition during the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s. This camp is the first written evidence of dumpling being eaten at a summer camp. It was also prepared and eaten at the Easter Camp to Blairmore that year. Usually, the dumpling was prepared in camp, and it is assumed that this was also the case at Tarbert. It has not been established who first introduced the dumpling treat at camp, although Bob Miller is a likely candidate. After the cocoa and dumpling, there was a singsong where Ken Johnson played the banjo.*
74. *Trevor Jones' nickname was Sherpa, presumably because of his interest in outdoor adventurous activities. Trevor participated in the District organised Kan-u-Take-It activities which included hill walking.*
75. *Presumably this was the fireplace that the Mouse Patrol was using for cooking.*
76. *This was the score (7/10) given by Douglas Brown for the log book.*

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Day**

We were the duty patrol<sup>77</sup> today.

The boss<sup>34</sup> woke us at 07.55 hrs. I<sup>27</sup> got the patrol up and they went for stores<sup>78</sup>. I stayed in bed till last. I got up and got the fire blazing (wiv a li'le 'elp)<sup>79</sup>.

The breakfast when cooked was

Porridge

Ham and eggs

Bread Butter Marmalade

Verdict:- Golly! Dats Good!

After washing the dishes, we prepared for inspection, which was delayed because of rain. Result was 10 for the tent, 9 for the kitchen, 5 for rebuilt fire, 6 for leaves.<sup>80</sup> The STA<sup>81</sup> for tomorrow is

Estimate height of flagpole<sup>82</sup>

Draw map of the campsite<sup>83</sup>

The flagpole is 22 feet<sup>84</sup> high.

The dinner was cooked over an excellent fire. We had Chips, Sploj<sup>85</sup> and Melon.

For most of the afternoon we did nothing and tea was a salad of lettuce, tomato and Luncheon Meat.

At 17.15 hrs, we all left camp for church<sup>86</sup> as the rain had stopped. The service lasted from 18.30 hrs to 19.30 hrs<sup>87</sup>. The Boss<sup>34</sup> said that we were to be in camp for 21.00 hrs. Will Phil<sup>47</sup> and I<sup>27</sup> went for an ice<sup>88</sup> and then I ferried him home<sup>89</sup>. A campfire was held when the boss<sup>34</sup> had returned and, after cocoa and biscuits, the wee men went to bed.

Trevor J. Jones P.L.  
R. Miller (ASM) (6)<sup>90</sup>

Comment: Please draw the map in this logbook. Trevor! We do not wish you to write this again!<sup>91</sup>

**Editorial Notes**

*77. The Duty Patrol in camp were responsible for breaking the flag in the morning and lowering it in the evening. There were also a number of camp chores that needed to be performed like collecting the milk or going into Tarbert for stores or taking empty bottles to the gate to be picked up.*

*78. If the whole patrol went for stores (bar Trevor) then it suggests that they were collecting stores for the whole of the camp from somewhere.*

*79. The wording is not entirely clear, but it might suggest that something like paraffin or methylated spirits was needed to get it going, assuming that this was available in camp.*

*80. It is not clear what the marks given for 'leaves' signified.*

*81. STA = Spare Time Activities.*

*82. Estimation was one of the skills assessed for the 1<sup>st</sup> Class Badge. There were a number of methods that could be used, one of which worked on the principle of equivalent triangles. A simpler method was to stand at a distance from the flagpole and hold a stick straight out in front of you such that it matched the height of the flagpole. The stick was then turned 90 degrees such that one end of the stick still matched the bottom of the flagpole, and the other end predicted where the top of the flagpole would end up if it fell down. A Scout was then instructed to walk out from the flagpole*

to that point. The distance from the bottom of the flagpole to the Scout could then be measured out using a Scout staff which had markings for every foot of its length.

83. This was part of the map and compass test for the First Class badge.

84. Metrication of weights and measures started about 1965 and was a gradual process. In 1959, it was standard to measure heights and distances in inches, feet, yards and miles. 12 inches corresponded to a foot, 3 feet to a yard and 1760 yards to a mile. The 1" to the mile map represented a scale of 1:63360

85. This was supposed to be fish cooked in milk, egg and breadcrumbs. The 'sploj' suggests that it did not turn out as expected.

86. The Church of Scotland near the centre of Tarbert. It's not known how they got there, but it was presumably by bicycle and on foot.

87. It is not stated whether this was a normal evening service or whether it was specifically for the Scouts. It is also not known whether the Scouts paraded with colours or not.

88. Presumably from the Café Ca' dora.

89. Presumably by means of a 'backie' on Trevor's bicycle.

90. A mark of 6/10 was awarded for the log book by Bob Miller.

91. Up until this point, Trevor had been writing the log himself, but each member of the patrol should have been taking a turn.

## Monday 27<sup>th</sup> of July 6<sup>th</sup> Day

We woke at the not so unofficial time of 8 a.m. as the Boss<sup>34</sup> was still in the Land of Nod.<sup>92</sup> Tommy<sup>4</sup> as usual was last up and even Skipper<sup>34</sup> beat him in getting up.

For breakfast we had:- omelette, bread, Mary Jane<sup>93</sup>, and marmalade and rolls. The rolls arrived by airway from the other side of the stream as Bobby<sup>55</sup> chucked them across<sup>94</sup>. Two rolls landed on the roof of our shelter and one of them finally ended up in the burn. However, Twev<sup>74</sup> caught it at the bridge, squeezed it out like washing, and, having hung it out to dry, ate it.

After breakfast, a parcel<sup>95</sup> arrived for me<sup>96</sup> and the next half hour was spent examining the contents of it. Before inspection, we were informed by the Scouters that they meant to confiscate the parcel so we laid a booby-trap for them but it didn't come off. We put the box up a tree and stuffed it (the box not the tree) with boulders and paper. But unfortunately, they did not try to take it down.

At inspection, we got 5 marks for the tent and 4 for the kitchen, which was not up to our usual standard.

After inspection, I<sup>96</sup> wandered over to the store tent and Bobby<sup>55</sup>, Kenny<sup>45</sup> and yours truly guzzled part of my parcel. Meanwhile, the rest of the patrol were lazing about in the tent.

For dinner we had:- Tinned steak and tatties, and peaches from the parcel. We were supplied with jelly but decided to keep it till next day.

In the afternoon<sup>97</sup>, we had sports:- three legged races and a tatty and spoon race. Tweet<sup>98</sup> won the tatty and spoon race & dear knows who won the three-legged race. Skipper<sup>34</sup> filmed it with his cine<sup>99</sup> camera<sup>100</sup>. After this, we went for a swim but not before Trevor<sup>2</sup> fell head first into the burn<sup>101</sup>. We had good fun on the raft and again Skipper made use of his camera. After the swim, we watched Dave<sup>10</sup> being ducked by Will Phill<sup>47</sup> for chucking stones at his permanent rubber tyre<sup>102</sup>.

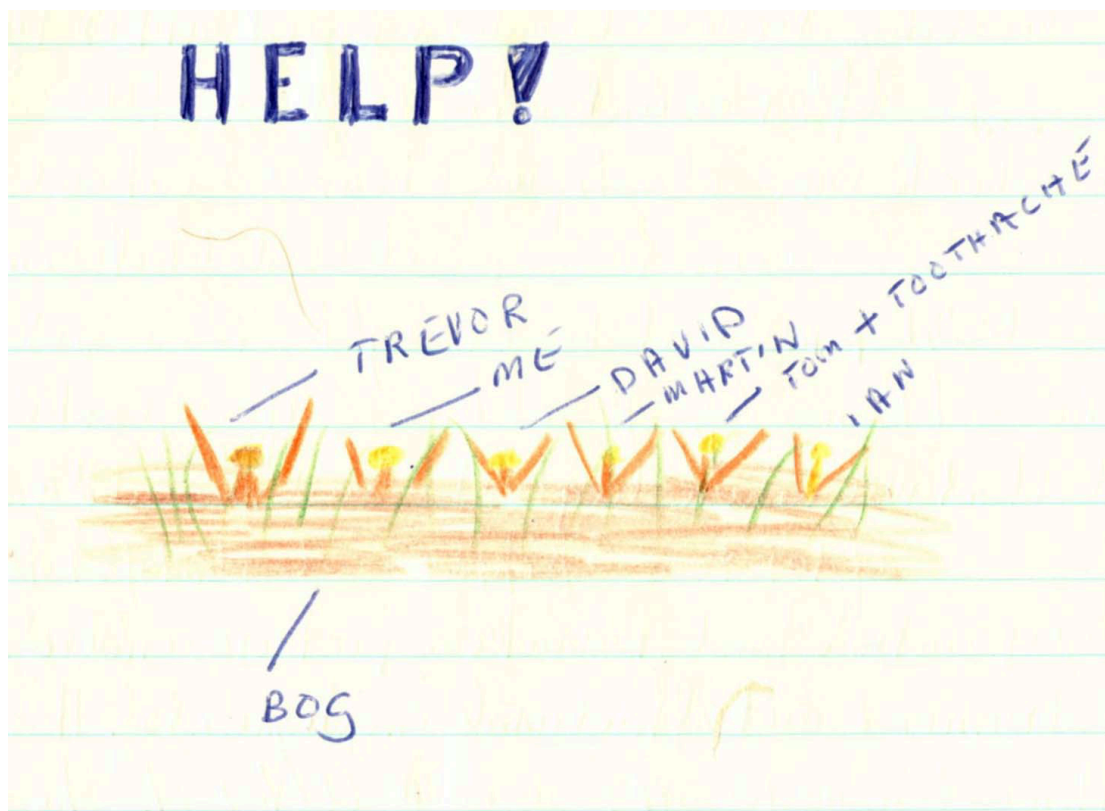
After a sunbathe, we went up to make tea which was black pud and beans<sup>30</sup> + cakes (Twev's<sup>74</sup>). Trevor was in town and he did not come back till 6.21 p.m. but he brought cakes with them so we let him off. He talked to Mr Clarke (the man with that wee white dug)<sup>103</sup> who said Twev could go fishing.

After tea, Skipper<sup>34</sup> said that for tomorrow every patrol had to make a picture and a musical instrument out of natural implements.<sup>104</sup> After he said that, we had a game of baseball in which my team beat Alistair Robb's<sup>105</sup> by 2 home runs to nil.

Then we went a hike to a chapel 2 ½ miles away over the hills.<sup>106</sup> We went there together but when we arrived there, the Boss<sup>34</sup> said that we, as patrols, were to make our own way back to camp. 2 patrols were to go by road; 2 by the hills.<sup>107</sup>

The patrols set off at 10 minutes intervals and much to our disgust we, last to go, had to go over the hills. On the way back, we passed some surveyor's white

marking poles.<sup>108</sup> We took a different route home than the troop did going the other way. Instead of cutting through the wood, we went round it and thus giving us a longer walk. We had to go through several bad bogs<sup>109</sup>, and we arrived at camp at 10.15 a.m.<sup>110</sup>



Then for supper, we had lemonade, biscuits, cake and, of course, cocoa. Will Phil<sup>47</sup> spilt cocoa over his sleeping bag while Skipper was mending it.

As it was raining, "Twev"<sup>74</sup> did not go fishing and we hit the pits at 11.36 a.m.<sup>111</sup>

Alastair Cram (Second)  
John R. Blake (10)+2<sup>112</sup>  
S.M. 70<sup>th</sup>

#### Editorial Notes

92. It was also raining

93. Presumably margarine or butter

94. The Mouse patrol were camping on the opposite side of the stream from everyone else.

95. Food parcels delivered from home were a source of great excitement when they arrived.

96. Alastair Cram

97. Before the sports, several Scouts did plate racing down the stream and also played on the rope swing over the stream. A few Scouts spent the afternoon in Tarbert as the afternoon was free time.

98. P.L. Hamish Rankin. His nickname had initially been 'Sweetie' – a title which he earned at his first camp at Inverreck. However, this developed over the years to 'Tweetie' or 'Tweet'.

99. This was scored out in the log and so it is believed that he had a normal camera.

100. Unfortunately, none of Ian Blake's photographs at this camp have survived.

101. One wonders whether he tripped or was pushed.

102. Possibly referring to extra poundage round the midriff

103. Possibly Mr. Clarke was a local farmer.

104. These represented further STAs (Spare time activities).

105. Alistair Robb was in the Rattlesnake Patrol. He was probably aged about 12 at the time and was normally in the Seal Patrol.

**106.** *A chapel is marked as a historic site at grid reference 828623 on the hillside east of the farm called Kennacraig. According to Chris Foster who lived in Tarbert, local folklore has it that Saint Columba was sailing to Iona and was forced to go ashore due to bad weather. Legend has it that he spent a night in the 'chapel'. Chris visited the site and it seems to consist of a small cave. At the time he visited, there was a small glass flower with a plastic flower inside. The site of the 'chapel' is about 2-3 miles from the campsite at Grid ref. 835647. It would be possible to hike over the hills to the chapel or to take the road to Kennacraig and hike up to the chapel from there. The distance looks very similar either way. This is probably why different groups returned to camp either cross country or by the road to see which was faster. The most likely route to the chapel would have been to go up the hill to Bardaravine or Achnancarranan, then follow the edge of the forest SW before heading up the chapel itself. The report mentions a hill climb, and there is always the possibility that the Scouts climbed to the summit of Cnoc a' Bhaile-Shios (Grid ref. 863628) first then descended to the chapel. However, this seems unlikely as the report talked about a hill climb to the chapel. Moreover, it is possible that the Scouts climbed this hill on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July.*

**107.** *The routes back were not defined, but see note 106. The route back by road probably involved descending to Kennacraig then taking the Tarbert road back to camp, while the cross-country route would almost certainly have followed the edge of the forest to at least Achnancarranan. From there, there would be an option to cut down to the main road for the last mile, or to continue to the stream leading down to the campsite. The latter seems a more likely possibility based on the description given in the log book.*

**108.** *A track now follows much of the cross-country route that the Scouts would have followed. It is conceivable that the surveying poles may have had something to do with the planning of that track.*

**109.** *See the sketch. This also reveals that the Scouts present were Trevor Jones, Alastair Cram, David ?, Martin Blake, Tommy Dow and Ian Lee. Martin Blake was actually still in the Wolf Cubs at this time and presumably tagged along with the Mouse Patrol with his father's blessing. The sketch also revealed that Tommy Dow was suffering from toothache. He was previously suffering from a sore throat on the previous Friday.*

**110.** *It was 10.15 p.m.*

**111.** *It was 11.36 p.m.*

**112.** *A score of 10/10 marks was awarded by Ian Blake for Alastair Cram's log book entry, plus a bonus score of 2 marks – possibly for the sketch and the detail provided.*

## Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 1959 (the 7th Day)

We rose rather later this morning at the unearthly hour of 9.35.

After lighting the fire, we proceeded to make breakfast, which consisted of:- French Toast<sup>113</sup> and cornflakes.

After cleaning up the breakfast dishes, we had a game of skussing<sup>114</sup> the plates across the burn (NOW VERBOTEN<sup>115</sup>).<sup>116</sup>

For the next hour, I was the guest of PL Jim<sup>3</sup>, until I<sup>4</sup> was dragged (forcibly) to make the dinner.

For dinner, Michael<sup>117</sup> and John Nisbet<sup>118</sup> arrived at camp<sup>119</sup>.

We had soup (oxtail), "minch and tatties"<sup>120</sup> and custard.

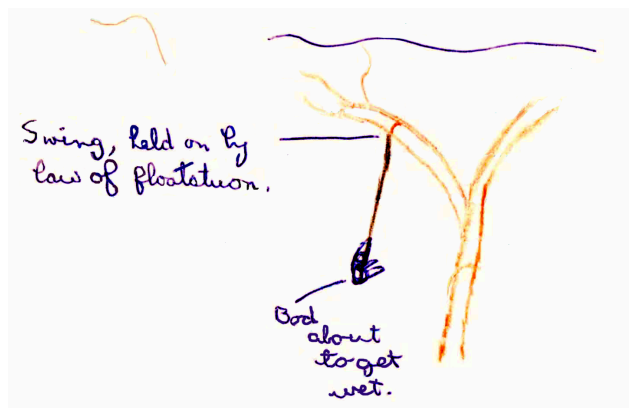
After lunch, we went to wash the dishes. I<sup>4</sup> was just crossing the bridge when I fell down in between two planks;<sup>121</sup> the space between the planks was about 2 inches.<sup>122</sup> My legs width is 4 inches, and I also had on my Tuff (as advertised on TV) boots.

In the afternoon, we were set a trail<sup>123</sup> by the Scouters. One of them things with the rope and the blindfolds. Anyway, it was great fun. We then set a trail for the scouters. Most of them I think could see through. We were then given a trail (comunal garden)<sup>124</sup> by the Scouters to follow, which was a great laugh.



After this, we went for a swim and built an outrigger for the raft<sup>31</sup>. We persuaded Skipper,<sup>34</sup> or should I see Captain, to jump off the raft.<sup>125</sup>

We then proceeded back to camp to make our tea which was bangers and beans<sup>30</sup>.



After this we made our S.T.A. (Spare Time Activity) making a whistle and picture out of natural materials. We made a picture out of bark and scraped it on with a knife.<sup>126</sup> Our instrument was a set of drumsticks.<sup>127</sup>

After we had finished, we had a game of football and baseball. We then played on the swing<sup>128</sup>

for the rest of the night. We then had apple fritters, cocoa.

AND SO TO OUR PITS<sup>129</sup>.

T. Dow (1<sup>st</sup> Scout)

Spelling??!! R. Miller (ASM) (10)<sup>130, 131</sup>

### *Editorial notes*

113. *This consisted of dipping bread into a mixture of milk and egg then frying it.*
114. *The writing is not too clear here and it might be 'skussing' or 'skeesing'. Presumably this involved skimming the plates across the burn.*
115. *The German word for 'Forbidden'.*
116. *Plates were being lost as a result of this activity. Presumably they were metal plates and sank when they filled up with water. It is doubtful whether plastic plates were readily available in the 1950s.*
117. *Michael Nisbet was aged about 12 at this point. He was a member of the Curlew Patrol, but it is not known which Patrol he was in at Tarbert.*
118. *John Nisbet was aged about 16 at this point and was PL of the Fox Patrol, as well as Troop Leader. A John is known to have camped with the patrol led by Hamish Rankin, but it is more likely that this was either John Gatherer or John Moore. Therefore, it is not known which patrols John and Michael camped with when they arrived.*
119. *The two brothers might have been on a family holiday, such that they were unable to attend the full camp.*
120. *Mince and potatoes*
121. *The footbridge was clearly in poor condition. This is one of three incidents reported regarding the bridge crossing.*
122. *The measurements don't tally with falling between the planks.*
123. *A blindfold rope trail, where you have to follow a rope over, under, and through various obstacles while wearing a blindfold.*
124. *It's not clear what is meant here. The third trail was actually a normal trail marked with woodcraft signs that the patrols had to follow. This was known as tracking and was one of the skills assessed in the Tenderfoot and 1<sup>st</sup> Class Badges.*
125. *Presumably the purpose of this was to get soaked*
126. *This probably meant that they carved a picture into the bark.*
127. *This contradicts the earlier statement which stated that a whistle was to be made.*
128. *The rope swing was tied to the branch of the tree which probably overhung the stream. It was situated quite close to the Kara tent occupied by Billy Phillips, Laird McFarlane and the so-far unidentified 'John'.*
129. *Sleeping bags*
130. *Comment by ASM Bob Miller. The log entry was marked 10/10.*
131. *As an additional note, Ken Johnson and Robert Harvey went on an overnight trip on a fishing boat, an activity that may have been repeated on all subsequent camps at Tarbert. It should be noted that Martin Blake's grandparents lived in Tarbert which probably resulted in establishing several useful contacts such as the overnight trip on the fishing trawler.*



## Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 1959 (The 8th day)

The patrol got up at 8.30 (a.m.) this morning and while Iain<sup>5</sup> and I<sup>132</sup> collected wood up the woods?, the whistle blew to go and collect stores.

Nobody from the patrol went for some mystifying reason with the result that there were only 5 rolls for breakfast. The menu for breakfast was:- bacon and egg omelette (with extra bacon afterwards), marmalade (wot a civilized name) and bread.

This morning's marks for inspection were:- 10 marks for the picture which Trevor<sup>2</sup> did on the 7th day, 9 marks for the tent (Iain's belt was found in the wrong place), 8 marks for the kitchen, 10 marks for the log by Tom,<sup>4</sup> and 8 marks for our drumsticks. The marks for this were gained entirely by its originality. Skipper<sup>34</sup> took a photograph<sup>100</sup> of the patrol after inspection.

A rope bridge<sup>133</sup> took shape during the morning. First, it was three pieces of wood, then a framework, and then, lo and behold, wee Jim<sup>3</sup> was sliding across on a piece of wood<sup>134</sup>. That was just the start. Soon every member (practically) of the troop was sliding across the burn.

Oh, I forgot to mention Tweet's<sup>98</sup> bit of wood broke and he fell and landed on his bottom in the water.

We were ready for dinner at the early hours of ten minutes to twelve. Dinner consisted of tinned steak and jelly. There were no potatoes because they hadn't arrived.

Alistair<sup>8</sup> and Tom<sup>4</sup> set off for town for the afternoon and Trevor<sup>2</sup> set off for a cycle run for the afternoon and evening, so I was left by myself<sup>132</sup>. The Troop had an official bathe in the late afternoon which lasted an hour and quarter; wee Jim<sup>3</sup> fell in the water with all his clothes on<sup>135</sup>.

Tea was a troop gathering in OUR kitchen. The menu was:- Tuna fish and spaghetti, bread and jam.

WE had to clear up afterwards.

The games were baseball and football. During the games, we were eaten alive by "mudges."<sup>136</sup>

For supper, we had chewy pancakes and apricot jam (a special treat) and, of course, cocoa.

We had an organized sing-song round the fire. After this, the younger members (wee men) of the troop turned in.

(8) John R. Blake SM 70<sup>th</sup>

I hope you all enjoyed the camp. JRB<sup>137</sup>

### **Editorial Notes**

**132.** The author did not identify himself. It was probably David (surname to be identified).

**133.** The following description suggests that this was an aerial runway or transporter

**134.** In the 1950s, Scouting was free of many of the rules and restrictions that are currently imposed. In the modern era, a proper seat has to be constructed according to stated dimensions. In the 1950s and the 1960s, Scout just slid down the rope hanging onto a piece of wood placed over the rope. The piece of wood had to be chosen carefully. Apart from being sufficiently strong that it would not break, it also had to be curved. If it was straight, it would be difficult to keep the middle of the stick on the rope, and if it slide one way or the other, it could lead to a hand getting a nasty rope burn.

135. *He was on the raft at the time. It capsized, but whether it was accidental or deliberate is not clear.*

136. *Midges*

137. *Final comment by John R. Blake. The log book entry was given a mark of 8/10*

### ***Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 1959. (Days 9 and 10)***

#### ***Editorial Comment***

*The last two days in camp were not recorded in the Mouse Patrol Log. However, an account of Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July can be found in the Rattlesnake Patrol Log.*